



APPEALS & STATE HEARINGS Newsletter

website: www.ladpss.org

MARCH 2003

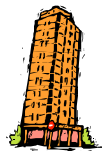
Our address: 3833 S Vermont Ave - 4th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90037

APPEALS LIAISONS MEETINGS

ASH continues to host regular meetings for appeals liaisons staff. The March 2003 meeting involved representatives from all the R&R/APP contracted child care agencies. The next round of meetings will begin in April 2003 with IHSS. CW and FS will follow in May 2003 with GAIN/Child Care meetings being scheduled while Medi-Cal is targeted for July 2003. These monthly meetings forge a better communication, understanding and networking between ASH and line operations staff involved in the appeals process.



STATE HEARING: STATE HEARING: WHERE??? WHO???



State hearings are held at 811 Wilshire Blvd. right in the middle of LA's financial district. The hearing is held in one of ten hearing rooms maintained by the State. Each hearing room contains a conference table around which the hearing parties sit. On one side of the table are the Appeals Hearing Specialist (County representative) and any County witnesses whose testimony is needed. The Appeals Specialist decides who will appear for the County. On the other side sit the claimant, the claimant's authorized representative, and/or any others who can provide testimony favorable to the claimant. The claimant and his/her representative decide who will appear for the claimant. The Administrative Law Judge sits at the head of the table and controls the proceedings. The hearing is tape recorded and a record is kept. Stay tuned! Our next newsletter tells - WHAT?? - happens at the hearing.

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POSTPONEMENTS



When a claimant/Authorized Representative (AR) is not able to attend a scheduled hearing, he/she can request a postponement. Postponements are granted by CDSS/State Hearings Division not by County staff. The first hearing postponement involving the Food Stamps program is granted upon the claimant/AR's request. For all the other programs, good cause must be established. Good cause reasons for postponement are: death in the family; personal illness or injury; sudden or unexpected emergencies which prevent the claimant or the AR from appearing; a conflicting court appearance which can not be postponed; or if the County does not make a position statement available to the claimant/AR at least two working days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

Time Limits Update

ASH welcomes the assistance of two retirees -- Brenda Rosenfeld and Tom Barton -- who have been given responsibility for managing the Time Limits appeals workload.

Special delivery !



If a request for a State hearing is incorrectly sent to a district or GAIN office, the receiving location should send the misdirected request, along with the postmarked envelope, to the Appeals & State Hearings office.



Case correction memos (PA 411) that ASH sends to district offices now identify potential Food Stamp errors. If the issue involves Food Stamps, the AHS indicates on the upper right hand corner of the PA 411 that the case in question may have a potential Food Stamp error!



In January 2003, ASH forwarded 281 PA 411s to the districts alerting them of potential FS errors. In February 2003, there were 240 PA 411's with FS alert notations. Remember that a corrected case means one less error case!!!